

# SOUTH KOREA



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## General

South Korea, a mountainous peninsula about 600 miles long and 135 miles wide, is located in E Asia and projects SE from China. It is in the S half of the Korean Peninsula, bordering the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea, S of North Korea.

In 1945, the United States and Russian forces enforced the surrender of the Japanese troops in Korea dividing the country for mutual military convenience into two portions; separated by the 38th parallel of latitude.

The country remained thus divided until the outbreak of the Korean war in June, 1950.

A cease-fire was accepted on July 10, 1951, and an agreement was signed between the N and S Koreans on July 27, 1953, since then the country has remained under two separate governments.

The climate is temperate with rainfall heavier in summer than winter.

The terrain is mostly hills and mountains with wide coastal plains in the W and S.

The N and E sections of Korea are mostly rugged and mountainous with the good harbors only found on the W and S shores.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect.

See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Cautions

Set net fisheries and aquaculture farms are located within 2 miles offshore in numerous places along the coasts of Korea.

In some places they extend as far as 5 miles offshore. Newly set fishing nets and aquaculture farms which are considered to be dangerous to navigation are reported in Korean Notices to Mariners.

It was reported that the local fishing boats do not display the proper International Lights. All boats usually have at least one white deck light.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the South Korean won, consisting of 100 chun.

## Firing Areas

Firing and bombing exercise areas used by Korean authorities along the coast of Korea are given below:

## 1. Army Controlled Area:

**Area R-77.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 38°32'09.7"N, 128°24'51.7"E.
- b. 38°34'09.7"N, 128°30'51.7"E.
- c. 38°32'09.7"N, 128°31'51.7"E.
- d. 38°30'09.7"N, 128°30'51.7"E

## 2. Navy Controlled Areas:

**Area R-72.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 34°18'11.5"N, 127°59'52.3"E
- b. 34°18'11.5"N, 128°34'52.1"E.
- c. 34°00'11.6"N, 128°34'52.1"E.
- d. 34°00'11.6"N, 127°52'52.3"E.

**Area R-99.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 34°45'11.3"N, 128°44'52.0"E.
- b. 34°48'11.3"N, 128°59'51.9"E.
- c. 34°37'11.4"N, 129°05'51.9"E.
- d. 34°20'11.5"N, 128°51'52.0"E.
- e. 34°20'11.5"N, 128°40'52.1"E.

**Area R-100.**—An area, 4 miles in radius, centered on position 34°53'11.3"N, 128°56'51.9"E.

**Area R-115.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 37°24'10.3"N, 129°44'51.4"E.
- b. 37°13'40.4"N, 130°59'51.0"E.
- c. 36°49'10.6"N, 130°59'51.0"E.

**Area R-116.**—An area, 4 miles in radius, centered on position 37°47'54.8"N, 124°39'33.1"E.

**Area R-117.**—An area, 4 miles in radius, centered on position 34°55'11.1"N, 125°56'52.9"E.

**Area R-118.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 34°00'11.6"N, 127°39'52.4"E.
- b. 34°00'11.6"N, 128°29'52.1"E
- c. 33°10'11.9"N, 127°49'52.4"E.
- d. 33°10'11.9"N, 127°39'52.5"E.

**Area R-119.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 35°47'00"N, 129°40'05"E.
- b. 35°43'00"N, 130°12'12"E.
- c. 35°37'36"N, 130°12'12"E.
- d. 35°27'56"N, 129°51'48"E.
- e. 35°28'00"N, 129°40'05"E.

**Area R-120.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°44'10.6"N, 130°24'51.2"E.
- b. 36°25'10.8"N, 130°54'51.1"E.
- c. 36°17'10.8"N, 130°54'51.1"E.
- d. 36°02'10.9"N, 130°28'51.3"E.
- e. 36°02'10.9"N, 130°24'51.3"E.

**Area R-121.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 38°25'09.8"N, 129°29'51.4"E.
- b. 38°25'09.7"N, 128°44'51.6"E.
- c. 38°17'09.8"N, 128°44'51.6"E.

- d. 38°17'09.8"N, 128°59'51.5"E.
- e. 38°10'09.9"N, 128°59'51.6"E.
- f. 38°10'09.9"N, 129°29'51.4"E.

**Area R-123.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°00'10.6"N, 124°59'53.2"E.
- b. 36°00'10.6"N, 125°29'53.0"E.
- c. 35°35'10.8"N, 125°29'53.0"E.
- d. 35°35'10.8"N, 124°59'53.2"E.

**Area R-124.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 37°06'10.1"N, 125°41'52.8"E.
- b. 37°06'10.2"N, 126°09'52.6"E.
- c. 36°55'10.2"N, 125°56'52.8"E.
- d. 36°55'10.2"N, 125°41'52.8"E.

**Area R-125.**—An area, 5 miles in radius, centered on position 34°33'11.2"N, 125°20'53.2"E.

**Area R-126.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 34°00'11.5"N, 125°47'53.1"E.
- b. 34°00'11.5"N, 125°59'53.0"E.
- c. 33°30'11.7"N, 125°59'53.0"E.
- d. 33°30'11.7"N, 125°47'53.1"E.

**Area R-128.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 33°00'11.9"N, 126°36'52.9"E.
- b. 32°40'12.1"N, 126°44'52.9"E.
- c. 32°40'12.1"N, 126°27'52.9"E.

**Area R-131.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 37°57'28.7"N, 124°34'08.1"E.
- b. 37°57'25.7"N, 124°38'00.1"E.
- c. 37°54'45.7"N, 124°34'05.2"E.
- d. 37°54'41.7"N, 124°37'57.1"E.

**Area R-132.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 37°57'00"N, 124°41'00"E.
- b. 37°57'00"N, 124°44'00"E.
- c. 37°45'00"N, 124°47'00"E.
- d. 37°45'00"N, 124°50'00"E.

## 3. Air Force Controlled Areas:

**Area R-74.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°52'10.5"N, 129°59'51.4"E.
- b. 36°50'10.5"N, 130°12'51.3"E.
- c. 36°44'10.6"N, 130°24'51.2"E.
- d. 36°02'10.9"N, 130°24'51.3"E.
- e. 36°02'10.9"N, 129°59'51.4"E.

**Area R-80.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°04'10.6"N, 125°47'52.9"E.
- b. 36°04'10.5"N, 124°49'53.2"E.
- c. 36°34'10.3"N, 124°49'53.2"E.
- d. 36°34'10.4"N, 125°47'52.8"E.

**Area R-84.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 35°25'10.8"N, 124°49'53.3"E.
- b. 35°25'10.9"N, 125°47'52.9"E.

- c. 35°00'11.0"N, 125°47'53.0"E.
- d. 35°00'11.0"N, 124°49'53.3"E.

**Area R-88.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°42'10.3"N, 124°49'53.2"E.
- b. 37°06'10.1"N, 124°49'53.1"E.
- c. 37°11'10.1"N, 125°41'52.8"E.
- d. 36°42'10.3"N, 125°41'52.9"E.

**Area R-97A.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°18'10.5"N, 126°34'52.6"E.
- b. 36°02'10.6"N, 126°23'52.7"E.
- c. 36°13'10.5"N, 126°10'52.7"E.
- d. 36°20'10.5"N, 126°30'52.6"E.

**Area R-97B.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°20'10.0"N, 125°56'52.7"E.
- b. 36°20'10.0"N, 126°09'52.6"E.
- c. 36°22'07.5"N, 126°14'43.7"E.
- d. 36°21'22.5"N, 126°30'07.6"E.
- e. 36°14'10.6"N, 126°37'52.6"E.
- f. 35°53'10.7"N, 126°21'52.7"E.
- g. 36°12'10.5"N, 126°02'52.8"E.
- h. 36°14'10.5"N, 125°56'52.8"E.

**Area R-97C.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°21'29.5"N, 126°22'54.6"E.
- b. 36°21'22.5"N, 126°30'07.6"E.
- c. 36°14'10.6"N, 126°37'52.6"E.
- d. 35°41'10.8"N, 125°43'52.9"E.
- e. 35°51'10.7"N, 125°34'53.0"E.

**Area R-97D.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°21'17.5"N, 126°24'43.7"E.
- b. 36°21'22.5"N, 126°30'07.6"E.
- c. 36°14'10.6"N, 126°37'52.6"E.
- d. 35°35'10.8"N, 126°05'52.8"E.
- e. 35°42'10.7"N, 125°51'52.9"E.

**Area R-104.**—An area, 5 miles in radius, centered on position 35°32'50.9"N, 126°26'25.7"E.

**Area R-105.**—An area, 11 miles in radius, centered on position 35°53'25.7"N, 126°04'35.8"E.

**Area R-107.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 38°08'09.9"N, 129°50'51.3"E.
- b. 38°08'10.0"N, 130°09'51.2"E.
- c. 37°39'10.2"N, 130°09'51.2"E.
- d. 37°42'10.1"N, 129°50'51.3"E.

#### 4. Agency for Development Controlled Areas:

**Area R-108A (No. 1 Firing Range).**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°40'46.3"N, 126°09'16.7"E.
- b. 36°32'58.4"N, 126°09'04.7"E.
- c. 36°33'08.4"N, 126°13'49.7"E.
- d. 36°40'36.3"N, 126°11'58.7"E.

**Area R-108B (No. 2 Firing Range).**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°40'46.3"N, 126°09'16.7"E.
- b. 36°28'10.4"N, 126°07'28.7"E.
- c. 36°29'25.4"N, 126°15'01.7"E.
- d. 36°40'36.3"N, 126°12'58.7"E.

**Area R-108C (No. 3 Firing Range).**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°40'38.3"N, 126°10'23.7"E.
- b. 36°38'10.3"N, 125°59'52.8"E.
- c. 35°01'19.0"N, 125°42'50.0"E.
- d. 34°58'24.1"N, 126°03'07.9"E.
- e. 36°34'10.4"N, 126°17'52.6"E.

**Area R-108D (No. 4 Firing Range).**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°40'46.3"N, 126°09'16.7"E.
- b. 36°23'10.5"N, 126°00'22.8"E.
- c. 36°21'40.5"N, 126°09'07.7"E.
- d. 36°40'36.3"N, 126°11'52.7"E.

**Area R-108E (No. 5 Firing Range).**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°41'11.3"N, 126°11'59.7"E.
- b. 36°36'57.4"N, 126°15'54.7"E.
- c. 36°33'36.4"N, 126°15'54.7"E.
- d. 36°33'34.4"N, 126°13'42.7"E.
- e. 36°40'39.3"N, 126°10'03.7"E.

**Area R-108F (No. 6 Firing Range).**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 36°40'46.3"N, 126°09'16.7"E.
- b. 36°18'10.5"N, 125°56'37.8"E.
- c. 36°17'19.5"N, 126°00'32.8"E.
- d. 36°40'36.3"N, 126°11'52.7"E.

#### 5. National Maritime Police Controlled Areas:

**Area Sokcho.**—An area, 5 miles in radius, centered on position 38°11'09.9"N, 128°49'51.6"E.

**Area Tonghae.**—An area, 5 miles in radius, centered on position 37°40'10.1"N, 129°15'51.5"E.

**Area Pohang.**—An area bound by the following points:

- a. 37°04'10.4"N, 129°59'51.3"E.
- b. 36°25'10.8"N, 131°11'51.0"E.
- c. 36°00'10.9"N, 130°51'51.2"E.
- d. 36°08'10.8"N, 129°59'51.4"E.

**Area Ulsan.**—An area, 5 miles in radius, centered on position 35°35'51.0"N, 129°42'56.6"E.

**Area Pusan.**—An area, 4 miles in radius, centered on position 34°53'11.3"N, 128°56'51.9"E.

**Area Tongyeong.**—An area, 5 miles in radius, centered on position 34°38'31.4"N, 128°27'52.1"E.

**Area Yosu.**—An area, 5 miles in radius, centered on position 34°29'56.4"N, 128°04'52.2"E.

**Area Cheju.**—An area, 5 miles in radius, centered on position 33°40'11.6"N, 126°17'52.9"E.

**Area Mokpo (Entrance).**—An area, 5 miles in radius, centered on position 34°45'34.2"N, 126°13'23.8"E.

**Area Mokpo-L.**—An area, 4 miles in radius, centered on position 34°33'11.2"N, 125°20'53.2"E.

**Area Mokpo (Yongkwang).**—An area, 3 miles in radius, centered on position 35°24'10.9"N, 126°14'52.8"E.

**Area Kunsan.**—An area, 5 miles in radius, centered on position 35°51'40.7"N, 126°10'07.8"E.

**Area Taean.**—An area, 5 miles in radius, centered on position 36°28'55.4"N, 126°04'22.7"E.

**Area Incheon.**—An area, 4 miles in radius, centered on position 37°04'10.2"N, 126°04'52.7"E.

## Government

The Government of South Korea is a republic with power centralized in a strong executive branch.

The capital is Seoul.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1 to 3, New Year's Days; March 1, Independence Movement Day; March 10, Labor Day; April 5, Arbour Day; May 5, Children's Day; May 20, Buddha's Birthday; June 6, Memorial Day; July 17, Constitution Day; August 15, Independence (Liberation) Day; September 21, Moon Festival Day; October 1, Armed Forces Day; October 3, National Foundation Day; October 9, Korean Alphabet Day; December 25, Christmas Day.

## Industries

The main industries are based on electronic, automobile production, chemicals, shipbuilding, steel, textiles, clothing, footwear, and food processing.

## Languages

The official language of South Korea is Korean.

## Mined Areas

[See North Korea.](#)

## Pilotage

Vessels bound for ports in South Korea should advise local agents of their ETA 72 hours, 48 hours, 24 hours, and 12 hours in advance.

The port authorities can then be notified and arrangements made for pilot, tugs, anchorage, and berth.

Pilotage is compulsory for entry, departure, and berth shifting in all South Korean ports.

See Pub. 157, Sailing Directions (Enroute) Coasts of Korea and China for individual ports.

## Regulations

A restricted zone has been established within 5 miles of the coast of South Korea. It is applicable to tankers, as follows:

1. Loading diesel fuel or LRFO in the amount of 1,500 kiloliters or more.
2. Loading noxious liquid material in the amount of 1,500 metric tons or more.

Vessels carrying dangerous cargoes and tugs in charge of tow, are requested to inform the relevant Maritime Police Authority of the vessel's name, gross tonnage, length of vessel and expected time of entering the designated area and also to monitor the information using radiotelephone and other available methods 12 hours before entering the area.

Tankers entering or departing ports of call must use the shortest possible transit route between the restricted zone and the port of call.

## Search and Rescue

The Korean Ship Reporting System (KOSREP) is a voluntary ship reporting system established by the Korea National Maritime Police Agency to assist in the coordination of Search and Rescue operations in the vicinity of Korea, as shown in the chartlet.

The following types of vessels are encouraged to participate in KOSREP:

1. International passenger vessels.
2. Vessels of 300 gross tons and over on international voyages.
3. Vessels navigating in the KOSREP area for a period of time greater than 12 hours.
4. Vessels not under command, restricted in their ability to maneuver, or constrained by their draft.
5. Towing vessels with a length of tow greater than 200m.
6. Vessels carrying dangerous cargo, crude oil, or chemicals.

There are four types of KOSREP reports:

1. **Sailing Plan (SP).**—The SP contains the basic information needed to enter the vessel into KOSREP. The report should be made when the vessel enters the KOSREP area from sea or when the vessel departs from a port within the KOSREP area.

2. **Position Report (PR).**—The PR verifies the information contained in the SP. The first PR should be sent within 12 hours of entering the KOSREP area, either from sea or after departing from port, and should subsequently be sent at a frequency of not less than every 12 hours until the Final Report is submitted. It is recommended that a PR be sent more frequently if the vessel is in heavy weather or operating under other dangerous conditions.

3. **Deviation Report (DR).**—The DR updates the information contained in the original SP. A DR should be sent, as follows:

- a. When the vessel's position deviates by 25 miles or more from its original track.
- b. When the port of destination changes.

4. **Final Report (FR).**—The FR terminates the vessel's participation in KOSREP and is sent, as follows:

- a. Prior to or upon arrival at a port.
- b. When leaving the seaward boundary of the KOSREP area.

The first line of a KOSREP message is one of the following::

Type of Message	Format
SP	KOSREP/SP//
PR	KOSREP/PR//
DR	KOSREP/DR//
FR	KOSREP/FR//

In all subsequent lines, a stroke (/) is used to separate sub-items, while two strokes (//) are used to mark the end of each line. See the Appendix for more information on the format of KOSREP messages.

## Signals

### Harbor Whistle Signals

The following whistle signals are used in Korean harbors:

Action	Signal
Entering harbor.	2 long blasts.
Leaving harbor.	1 long blast.
Calling pilot.	1 long blast, 1 short blast, 1 long blast.
Calling lighter.	1 long blast, 2 short blasts, 1 long blast.

Action	Signal
Calling cargo lighter.	1 long blast, 1 short blast.
Calling launch.	1 short blast, 1 long blast.
Recalling all crew members.	2 short blasts, 1 long blast.
Requiring medical assistance.	1 short blast, 1 long blast, 1 short blast.
Emergency.	3 short blasts, 3 long blasts, 3 short blasts.
Getting underway.	2 short blasts, 2 long blasts, 2 short blasts.
Finish loading.	1 long blast, 3 short blasts.

### Storm Signals

The following storm warning signals are used in Korean waters to indicate the expected force of winds, regardless of direction:

By Day	At Night	Meaning
A red ball.	A white light above a blue light.	Force 7 to 8.
A red cone, point up.	Two red lights, disposed vertically.	Force 9 to 11.
A red cross.	A blue light between two red lights, disposed vertically.	Force 12.

### Time Zone

The Time Zone description is INDIA (-9).

### U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at 82 Sejong-Ro, Chongro-ku, Seoul. The mailing address is American Embassy, Unit 15550, Seoul; APO AP 96205-0001.

## Appendix

### KOSREP Message Reporting Formats

Format	Sailing Plan	Position Report	Deviation Report	Final Report	Remarks
A/Vessel name/call sign//	R	R	R	R	
B/Date and time of departure or report//	R	R	O		See Note 1.
C/Latitude/longitude//		R			See Note 2.
E/Current course//	O	O	O		
F/Intended average speed//	O	O	O		See Note 3.
G/Port of departure/latitude/longitude//	R		O		See Note 2.
I/Port of destination/latitude/longitude/ETA//	R		O		See Note 2.
K/Port of arrival/latitude/longitude/time of arrival//				R	See Notes 1 and 2.
L/Navigation method/average speed/latitude/longitude/ETA/name of landmark or sea area//	R		O		See Notes 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6.
M/Current coastal radio station/next coastal radio station, if any//	O	O	O		
V/Onboard medical resources//	R		O		See Note 7.
X/Up to 65 characters of amplifying comments//	O	O	O	O	
Y/JASREP/AMVER/others//	R	R	R	R	See Note 8.
<p><b>KEY</b>  R Required  O Optional</p> <p><b>Notes:</b>  1. Expressed as a six-digit group, DDHHMM, using UTC, where DD is the date (from 01 to 31), HH is the hour (from 00 to 23) and MM is minutes (from 00 to 59), followed by Z.  2. Latitude is expressed as a four-digit group, DDMM, where DD is degrees (from 00 to 90) and MM is minutes (from 00 to 59), followed by N or S.  3. Average speed is a three-digit group expressed in terms of knots and tenths of knots.  4. Requires at least three waypoints, up to a maximum of 12.  5. For navigation method, use "Coastal" for coastal navigation, "RL" for rhumb line, and "GC" for great circle.  6. Average speed to next waypoint is a three-digit group expressed in terms of knots and tenths of knots.  7. Choose from "MD" for physician, "PA" for physician's assistant or health supervisor, "NURSE," or "NONE."  8. Used when a dual participation in KOSREP, JASREP, AMVER, or other system is desired</p>					